

Nomans overview

Nomans Land Island sits 3 miles south of Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Cape Cod. The island has a diverse history that includes Native American use, sheep farms, fishing villages, Navy training as a bombing range, and inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System. The island is 640 acres, approximately 3 miles long and 1 mile wide, and includes a variety of habitats. Harsh oceanic winds, salt spray, and lack of shelter have created a brush, forb, grass, and sedge vegetative complex. The island has 2 natural freshwater ponds, a brackish pond, and a number of smaller man-made ponds. The island is closed to all public access because of the remaining unexploded ordnance. Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge is included in the Refuge System for its value to migratory birds. The island has been managed as a part of the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex since its transfer from the Navy in 1999.